

CONGRESSMAN

MIKE ROGERS

Veterans Update

NOVEMBER 2005

■ **CONGRESS SEEKS TO PRESERVE DIGNITY OF ARLINGTON AND OTHER NATIONAL CEMETERIES**

Legislation was recently introduced in the U.S. Congress to prevent those who commit murder from being buried in military cemeteries and receiving military honors at their funerals. The legislation would prohibit Dennis Rader and others like him from being buried at Arlington or any of the nation's military cemeteries. Rader, who served in the Air Force for four years, is known as the BTK killer. He was recently convicted in Kansas of murdering ten people between 1974 to 1991. Although sentenced to 175 years in prison, Dennis Rader is technically eligible for parole.

This legislation will close the 'parole loophole' in the law that now allows capital offenders to be buried in our national cemeteries. In 1997, Congress passed legislation which prohibited Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and other murderers from burial in military cemeteries. But that legislation applied only to those who had received the death penalty or a life sentence with no parole.

This legislation will ensure that no one who is given a life sentence or who is sentenced to death for murder will be honored at their funerals by the presence of a military funeral detail. We should not bury brutal murderers alongside America's honored dead and we should not provide memorialization benefits to those who have so dishonored themselves through their own post-service conduct.

■ **ALERT: NEW SCAM TARGETING VETERANS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received several reports of an organization identifying itself as "Patient Care Group (PCG)" contacting veterans and falsely telling them that PCG is now dispensing prescriptions for the VA.

PCG callers are asking veterans for a credit card number to ensure they will continue to receive his/her medications. Veterans are being warned not to give any information to a company calling veterans and telling them the government is changing its method of handling prescriptions. The VA has not changed the process for receiving and dispensing prescription medication.

Patient Care Group has been identified as a fraudulent company and veterans should not give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information. For additional information please call Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 517.335.6523 or toll-free at 1.877.222.8387.

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